



The President's Daily Brief

Top Secret 7 February 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
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1. Communist China

Mao and his followers still face important opposition in the army, while posters seen in Peking yesterday claim "there is no end to sporadic bloody clashes." We think these "clashes" are mainly street riots and demonstrations; no hard evidence of troops exchanging fire anywhere in China has yet appeared.

The Maoists may be trying to bring the army around by dealing brutally with military leaders who have incurred their disfavor. Posters say that the head of the army purge group--who was abruptly sacked in mid January--was dragged out before a rally of soldiers on Sunday.

2. Sino-Soviet Relations

Anti-Soviet demonstrations in Peking--now in the 13th day--look more and more like an effort to force the Russians out of China entirely. Soviet diplomats there are in a state of virtual siege.

Moscow is plainly hard pressed to maintain its pose of restraint.

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Representatives of Moscow's East European allies are also being violently abused. A mob kept the Polish ambassador in his car for 10 hours, causing him to ruin both his clothing and the upholstery.

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3. Soviet Union

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4. South Vietnam

General Tri, the Saigon minister responsible for the defector program, is said to be dragging his feet in carrying out the "national reconciliation" campaign. Tri is skittish about pushing contacts with high-level Communists for fear that he would be accused of collaboration with the Communists. He is inclined in any event to let George do it, in this case General Loan, Ky's chief of security services.

Tri's bosses seem to share some of his reservations about the program. Its launching, most recently scheduled to coincide with the New Year holiday, now seems likely to be postponed until April at the earliest.

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5. Indonesia

Pressures on Sukarno to step down--or be removed and perhaps tried for treason--are increasing.

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We, however, expect the cat and mouse game to continue, with Suharto pressing Sukarno to resign and the President being as difficult as possible.

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